



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

JUL - 7 2014

Mr. Robert Fisher
18 Deerfield Drive
Owego, NY 13827

Dear Mr. Fisher:

Thank you for your letter of June 9, 2014, to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, in which you expressed an interest in the President's announced Clean Power Plan, and more specifically in understanding whether oxygen enhanced combustion would be economical in reducing the quantity of coal required to provide the combustion temperatures necessary to generate steam. The Administrator referred your letter to my office for response.

As you may know from the President's recent announcement, the Clean Power Plan is a commonsense plan to cut carbon pollution from power plants. The science shows that climate change is already posing risks to our health and our economy. This plan will maintain an affordable, reliable energy system, while cutting pollution and protecting our health and environment for now and for future generations. For more information on the Clean Power Plan, please visit our website at <http://www.epa.gov/cleanpowerplan>

One of the technical approaches that the EPA has evaluated for reducing CO₂ from coal is CO₂ capture and sequestration (CCS). Although it is not specifically discussed in our recently proposed Clean Power Plan rule, one of the several CCS concepts that could be considered by electric utilities in the future involves your suggested use of concentrated oxygen instead of air for coal combustion. An "oxy-combustion" process would directly produce mostly CO₂ as a flue gas (avoiding a costly CO₂ separation process), and it would also greatly reduce NO_x emissions as noted in your letter. The oxy-combustion CCS process has been studied extensively, and demonstrated at a pilot plant scale. You can find additional information on CCS in general, including the research on the oxy-combustion process, at <http://www.netl.doe.gov/File%20Library/Research/Coal/carbon%20capture/handbook/CO2-Capture-Tech-Update-2013-Oxy-Combustion.pdf>

Thank you again for your letter. I appreciate your interest in the EPA's Clean Power Plan and hope you will find the information provided helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Harvey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Reid P. Harvey
Director
Clean Air Markets Division